

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have been an airline pilot for 13 years. I am outraged that a few pilots with some clout were able to get a totally unrelated rider attached to such an important bill as the Homeland Security Bill. If the retirement age for airline pilots is allowed to increase from 60 to 63 or 65, then the several thousand unemployed /forloughed pilots will continue to struggle to support their families while a few 60+ year old pilots leach money out of the various airline companies. From a safety point of view, I have flown with some pilots in their late 50's that I would not want my children to fly with. On the other hand I have flown with some pilots that will retire in a couple of months that are sharp as a tack. I have read studies that indicate that as a pilot gets up in years their reflexes and general health deteriorates. If you look at the flight engineers over 60 that work for Delta, you will see how many of them are out on medical leave of absences. If this extension of the retirement age is what it is cracked out to be, then let this bill stand alone on its own merits. Do not let this bill get a free ride on The Homeland Security Bill.

Sincerely,

David E. McLeish

Delta Pilot